Understanding Kentucky's Minimum N for School Accountability

Kentucky Department of EDUCATION

The Minimum N Count is the minimum number of students required for determining and reporting accountability and federal classifications without compromising student privacy.

To achieve the acceptable balance between inclusion and reliability, within what is technically possible, Kentucky will use a minimum n of 30 for each indicator for all students and each student demographic group. Though school level accountability is the focus of this document, the minimum n of 30 is also applicable to accountable entities at the district and state levels.

General

For all accountable students and each accountable student demographic group, there must be 30 students *per school level (Elementary, Middle, High), per indicator* (not per grade level and content area). Students with an approved nonparticipation in a content area will not be included in the n count for that component of the indicator.
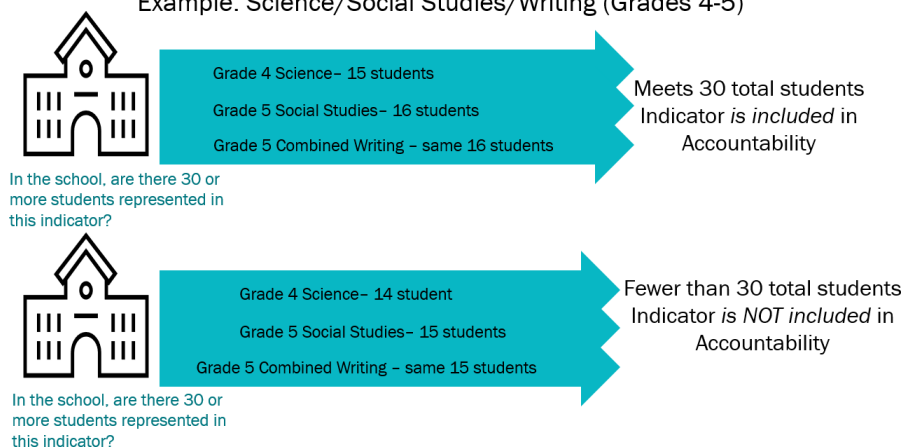
Students will be counted in the indicator only one time as part of the n count, even if the indicator has more than one component (such as reading **and** mathematics). For example, if the same 27 students take both reading and mathematics tests in grades 3-5 {or received the lowest possible score}, the n count will be 27 (not 54). The n count does not have to be met for each content area; it is met by indicator.

State Assessment Results Indicators

For the indicator of State Assessment Results in Reading and Mathematics an n count of 30 includes all accountable students who were expected to test in Reading and Mathematics. For the indicator of State Assessment Results in Science, Social Studies and Writing indicators, an n count of 30 includes all accountable students who were expected to test in Science, Social Studies and Writing. Students without an approved nonparticipation will receive the lowest possible score for missing tests.
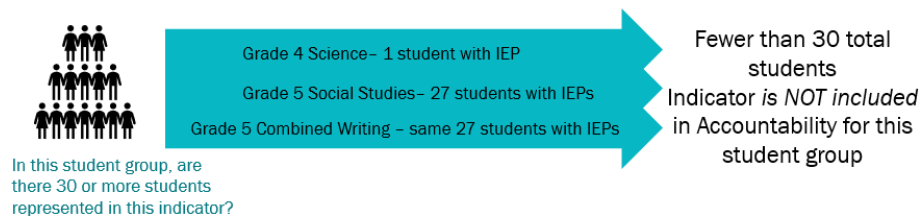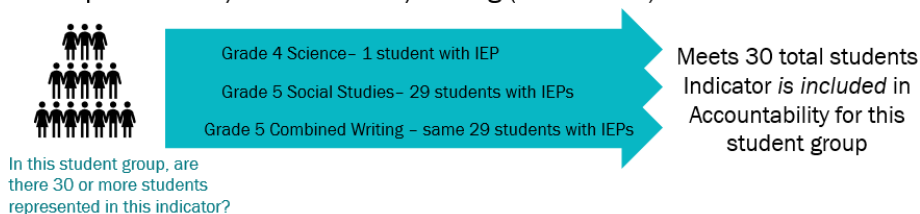
Minimum N of 30 Met at School Level by Indicator
Example: Science/Social Studies/Writing (Grades 4-5)

Grade 4 Science– 15 students
Grade 5 Social Studies– 16 students
Grade 5 Combined Writing – same 16 students

In the school, are there 30 or more students represented in this indicator?

Meets 30 total students Indicator *is included* in Accountability

Grade 4 Science– 14 student
Grade 5 Social Studies– 15 students
Grade 5 Combined Writing – same 15 students

In the school, are there 30 or more students represented in this indicator?

Fewer than 30 total students Indicator *is NOT included* in Accountability

Minimum N of 30 for Student Group Met at School Level by Indicator

Example: Science/Social Studies/Writing (Grades 4-5) for Students with IEPs

Grade 4 Science– 1 student with IEP

Grade 5 Social Studies– 29 students with IEPs

Grade 5 Combined Writing – same 29 students with IEPs

Meets 30 total students
Indicator *is included* in
Accountability for this
student group

In this student group, are there 30 or more students represented in this indicator?

Grade 4 Science– 1 student with IEP

Grade 5 Social Studies– 27 students with IEPs

Grade 5 Combined Writing – same 27 students with IEPs

Fewer than 30 total
students
Indicator *is NOT included*
in Accountability for this
student group

In this student group, are there 30 or more students represented in this indicator?

Quality of School Climate and Safety

The minimum n for the Quality of School Climate and Safety Indicator includes accountable students who responded to at least one question in the Quality of School Climate and Safety survey. Students who did not take the survey are not included in the n count.

English Learner (EL) Progress

The n count for the EL Progress indicator is determined by the number of accountable English Learners in all grades 1-12 by level (E/M/H); Kindergarten is not included. Each student without an approved nonparticipation will be linked to prior year data if available.

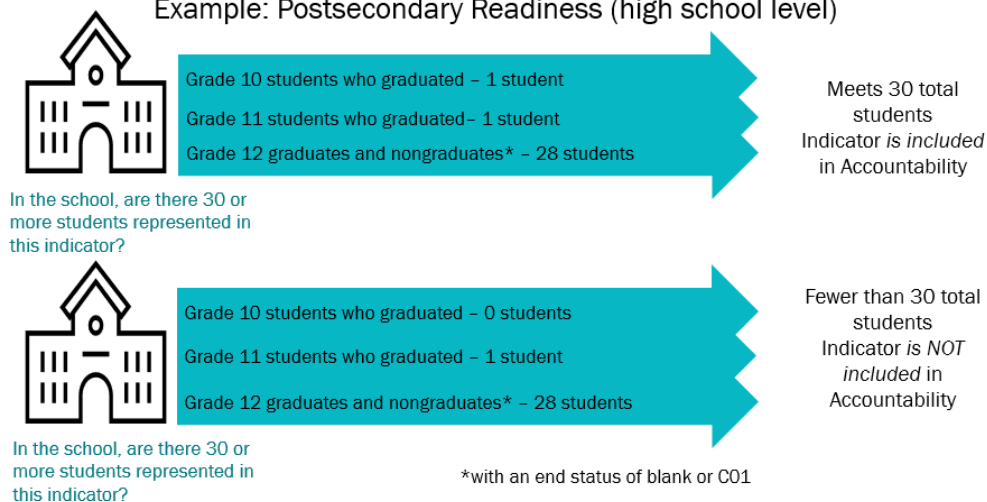| EL (English Learner) Student Status	Included in N Count
Exited in Prior Year	No
Has Approved Nonparticipation for Either Year	No
Tested with Different Test in Prior Year (e.g., ACCESS to Alt ACCESS)	No
Tested in Current Year Only (e.g., kindergarten)	No
Tested in Current Year **and** Prior Year	Yes
Tested in Prior Year (or received lowest score) but NOT Tested in Current Year (without approved nonparticipation).	Yes (with lowest possible score on current year test)

Note: "EL monitored" students are not included in the n count because the indicator data comes from the ACCESS tests.

Postsecondary Readiness

Postsecondary Readiness n-count determination includes all students that receive a G-code for the first time regardless of the grade they are associated with (e.g., students in the Early Graduation Program) or grade 12 students with an end status of blank or C01.
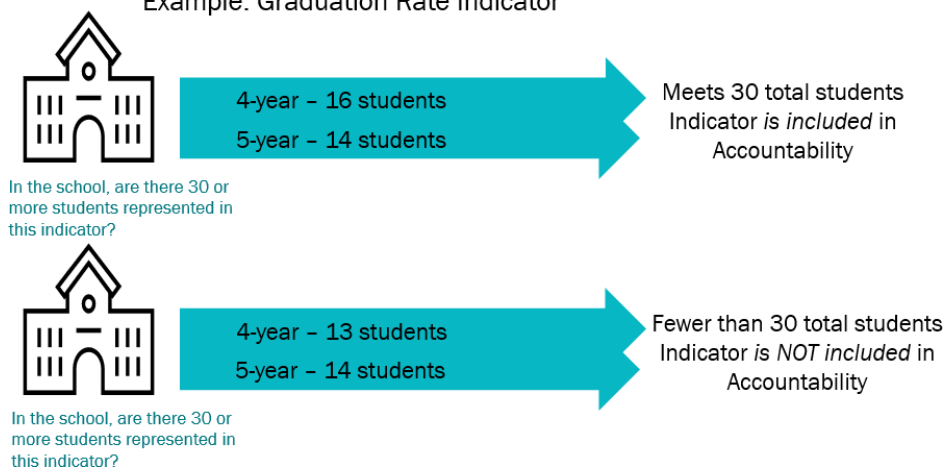
Minimum N of 30 Met at School Level by Indicator

Example: Postsecondary Readiness (high school level)

Grade 10 students who graduated – 1 student
Grade 11 students who graduated– 1 student
Grade 12 graduates and nongraduates* – 28 students

In the school, are there 30 or more students represented in this indicator?

Meets 30 total students Indicator *is included* in Accountability

Grade 10 students who graduated – 0 students
Grade 11 students who graduated – 1 student
Grade 12 graduates and nongraduates* – 28 students

In the school, are there 30 or more students represented in this indicator?

Fewer than 30 total students Indicator *is NOT included* in Accountability

*with an end status of blank or C01

Graduation Rate

Minimum N of 30 Met at School Level by Indicator

Example: Graduation Rate Indicator

4-year – 16 students
5-year – 14 students

In the school, are there 30 or more students represented in this indicator?

Meets 30 total students Indicator *is included* in Accountability

4-year – 13 students
5-year – 14 students

In the school, are there 30 or more students represented in this indicator?

Fewer than 30 total students Indicator *is NOT included* in Accountability

There are no nonparticipations for the Graduation Rate indicator. The n count is determined using the sum of the 4-year and 5-year cohorts and is based on where the first G-Code was issued.

Unique Students

Each accountable student contributes to the n count only one time per indicator. Since nonparticipations are applied by content area, there could be situations where the data might need to be reviewed in more detail because at first glance, it could appear to not meet the n count, but actually does.

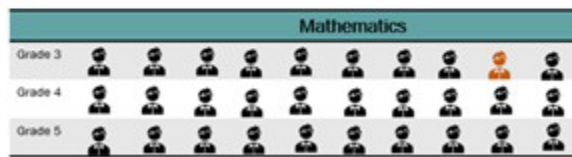**Unique Students** Example: State Assessment Results in Reading and Mathematics (Elementary)

In this school there are **30** accountable students total in grades 3-5 (10 in each grade level).

Although there are only 29 students represented in each content area, the minimum n is met because it is determined by indicator, not content area. There are 30 unique students in total represented in the indicator. If Jack and Jill had received nonparticipations in both tests, the minimum n would not have been met.

Suppression Impact

Suppression is the limitation of data publicly reported to protect student privacy due to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) rules and/or federal Best Reporting Practices. However, this does not impact the inclusion of the data in accountability. In some cases, the n count is met for the indicator, but student performance level data (NAPD) may be suppressed in public reporting. (e.g., small numbers in a level, no students in one of the student performance levels-NAPD).

NOTE: Schools with an enrollment of less than 30 students overall will be contacted individually.